

Cambridge Local Government Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by
Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised. I hope to publish these online one
day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770. They also have detailed newspaper cuttings
files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check
There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

This file brings together two of 70 sections from *A Century of Cambridge News from 1888*.
The full file is online at <https://archive.org/details/CenturyOfCambridgeNewsAugust2015>

Guildhall and Market Hill site – history by Mrs Keynes – 37 02 18

Redevelopment scheme for Guildhall site, 1859 – history – 59 08 14b & c

1888

County Council established under Local Government Act, much of business previously transacted by Quarter Sessions assigned to them. Offices established in various parts of the town & Council meetings held in Guildhall [3.7, 3.1, 3.2]

In Cambridge act results in two Councillors being appointed annually by University Senate & four others elected by Colleges. Cambridge Improvement Commissioners powers pass to Town Council

1888 10 26

Death of Edmund Foster, Town Clerk, funeral 88 11 02 [3.6]

1888 11 16

Chesterton UDC electors vote in favour of erection of new bridge (Victoria Bridge), apply for Act 88 11 16 [3.7]

1888 11 23

Women allowed to vote in County Council elections [2.21]

1889

Mayor dies in office [NL3.11]

1889 04 26

Newnham Croft electors favour incorporation into Borough [3.8]

1889 05 24

Discussions on draft provisional Local Government Order and its significance for Cambridge. 89 05 24 [3.9]

1891

Daisy Hopkins escapes from Spinning House & is re-arrested, produces outcry in press & University official convicted of carelessness & ignorance in exercise of his powers; feelings run high & series of meetings called to sort out the matter [2.16]

1894

University & Corporation Act provides for concurrent action by Proctors & town police in arresting loose women & abolishes Vice Chancellor's jurisdiction over them; Spinning House abolished [2.14,1.5,2.15]

1897 01 23

Chesterton amalgamation: electors vote 985 to 349 against incorporation into Borough 1897 01 23 CDN

1897 08 20

For several years Cambridge has been in a state of chronic poverty. With hardly a sou in the bank – not sufficient to meet tradesmen's bill as they become due - the financial outlook has been far from cheering to the ratepayer. A farthing rate to retain East Road Reading Room is denied, yet in the next breath the modest sum of £21,000 is voted for street improvements. And again there is the front of the Guildhall. No sane person can defend the retention of a monstrosity like that and if it is not to be retained it must be replaced and care must be taken that the new building is worthy of the town c1897 08 20

1898 01 06

Death H.J. Whitaker, Borough Treasurer, CDN 1898 01 06 p3

1898 10 07

Cambridge town council has issued an additional report on the proposed new Guildhall buildings. The accommodation will be considerably increased and will include in the basement, additional coal store, public lavatories for men and women and three new storerooms. On the ground floor a greatly improved entrance with grand staircase, cloak rooms, retiring rooms, two new public meeting rooms, kitchen and offices. Facing Union Street three new shops will be provided. On the first floor the Aldermen's parlour will be enlarged and improved and there will be rooms for the town clerk as well as a Mayor's reception room and a new enlarged council chamber. The cost is estimated at £38,000
CDN 1898 10 07

1898 10 13

The Town Council of Cambridge has asked the burgesses whether they are of a mind to make a beginning at once with the extension of the Guildhall, and with the building of a new front, and the ratepayers have given their answer. There is no ambiguity about that answer; the "No" is emphatic enough. The attendance at the Guildhall was so large that those who know by experience how difficult it is to get the public to take an active interest in public questions must have been surprised. CDN 1898 10 13

1899

Apply for Bill to allow municipalisation of tramways, waterworks, lavatories and water but this proposal rejected by ratepayers ice [2.17]

1899 11 09

Cambridge Improvement Commission powers pass to Town Council

1900 10 18

Cambridge town council considered the position of town crier. Mr Campkin said the office was a relic of Bumbledon and could well be dispensed with. They had outlived the town crier as they had the Bedell. Alderman Spalding thought it a great pity to get rid of these old offices. The crier preceded the Mayor to church five times a year, went to meet the judges three times, attending the quarter sessions and licensing sessions and made in all sixteen appearances during the year. The salary was £20 per annum c.00 10 18

1901 03 26

My commission was to go to the Guildhall and having duly observed both men and things to put down my impressions, without fear or favour. With feelings akin to awe I approached the Council precincts and entered the chamber where the elders of the town engaged in high debate. Comfortable and commodious it was evidently designed to render the labours of the councillors as pleasant as possible, with an air of quiet repose and dignity. I had hoped for some little show of stately ceremony, but shambling and shuffling were the order of the day and the meeting began as it ended in a spirit of haste and lack of orderliness c01 03 26

1901 03 27

Cambridge may be justly congratulated on her County Councillors. The meeting was opened and conducted throughout in a very business-like & decorous manner. Good nature, a courtly yielding to others and a desire to be conciliatory seemed to be general. The language was decidedly moderate. Another noticeable feature is the large number of young men on the Council. Youthful spirits will go on working cheerfully instead of mournfully shaking their heads and eternally speaking of the "good old times" c01 03 27

1901 05 06

County Council "one of the best-managed public bodies in country" 1901 05 06 [1.7]

1902

Chesterton amalgamation “impossible” [1.8]

1902

Education Act gives Cambridge council power to manage schools [3.4]

1903

Chesterton amalgamation: majority oppose [1.9]

1903 04 21

All the arguments in favour of converting Cambridge into a County Borough having failed some councillors have threatened to petition for an extension to the town's boundaries so as to include not only Chesterton but Newnham Croft and St John's, Cherry Hinton as well. To silence opposition they have threatened that all children from these districts attending schools in Cambridge will have to be turned out to seek education under their own authority. This has confirmed the opponents in their opposition and alienated the sympathies of supporters. Fortunately nobody is likely to be frightened by such pusillanimous threats. c03 04 21

1903 09 30

Coun Morley said the Cambridge Borough Surveyor had met with an accident when driving in the Corporation trap. It was time they should come more up to date and go in for a motor. (Laughter). The Corporation had laughed at this before – they generally did at any matter that was up to date. It was said that motors were not reliable but he had one that had travelled 3,000 miles in six months and never had a breakdown. Motor traction cost considerably less than a pony and trap - £20 a year including petrol and everything else. He proposed that they buy a motor tandem tricycle which would cost £75. c03 09 30

1904 01 02

Cambridge Daily News battle to attend Education Committee meeting following Education Act of 1903 which gives council power to manage schools, 04 01 02 [3.4]

1904 02 26

County Council electioneering tactics at Cherry Hinton were exposed in confidential correspondence between two potential candidates. Mr Neal, the owner of Cherry Hinton Hall, was too unknown to have the slightest chance of carrying the seat. Many scarcely knew there was a Hall and he had not had time to make it a centre of interest. The parish is Radical to the backbone and the Conservatives would be giving the seat away to the opposition were he to stand. However Mr Brooke had great strength with the cottagers and even the Dissenters would support him. In the event of his being elected he would not serve once the Education question had been settled and would stand down, making it easier for Mr Neal to win the seat. CDN c 26.2.1904

1904 06 16

Cambridge Town Council honoured Alexander Peckover, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire with the Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his services to Cambridge and his munificence to Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Eastern Counties Asylum at Colchester which has made his name a household word in the neighbourhood. The address was enclosed in an ebony casket supplied by Messrs Cole of Market Street on which was a silver plate. It was, said Peckover, something he would value very highly. The casket would go down as an heirloom to his daughter. 1904 06 16

1904 06 16

At the death of Queen Victoria, a little more than three years ago, the Mayor of Cambridge started a subscription to provide a memorial. Plans for a substantial improvement at the hospital had to be

abandoned but they agreed to procure a bust of the Queen from Thomas Brock. It was a magnificent work of art by one of the leading sculptors of their generation which the Corporation would always treasure. It would be an ornament to the Guildhall and retain an honourable position in that building as long as it lasted and then take a more distinguished position in more sumptuous surroundings. 1904 06 16

1905 07 13

Cambridge has regained a missing charter granted to the Borough in 1632 by King Charles I. It is plainly written in Latin upon a huge scroll of parchment but is mutilated by having a large circular patch cut away, possibly to cover a drum used in the civil war. It was presented by the Royal Institution of South Wales who had found it amongst their ancient papers; how it got there is not known. 05 07 13a-c

1905 10 05

Cambridge Town Council wrote to Chesterton R.D.C. saying they wish to extend their boundaries to incorporate parts of Chesterton, Cherry Hinton, Trumpington and Grantchester. Chesterton are to reply saying they will give such project its most strenuous opposition. 05 10 05-b

1905 12 09

Cambridge Corporation's new Mill Road storeyard is nearing completion on land behind the Free Library. Here material for the repair and making of roads is stored, vehicles housed and mended and appliances for any contingency kept in readiness. It has a siding to the railway for granite or cement, an open shed for refuse vehicles and stables together with accommodation for two steam rollers. There are blacksmiths, carpenters and wheelwright's shops and a men's mess room 05 12 09a & b

1906 10 19

A Cambridge Ratepayer Association was formed: there was deplorable apathy over local government and many councillors resumed their seats without a contest. Members of councils were nominated and their actions controlled by a party. Contracts were given out, not to the lowest tender, but because one man belonged to one party and one to the other. They might run candidates for the town council and board of guardians irrespective of party politics. 06 10 19b

1907 03 07

In the recent County Council elections for Castle Ward, Cambridge both A.B. Whibley and James Wootten received equal votes. Both candidates are elected but neither can vote until one or other petitions the High Court, which is an expensive process. 07 03 07

1907 03 09

Officers who preside at country polling districts are required to bring the boxes containing votes to Shire Hall ready for counting next morning. Usually they do so comfortably seated in a carriage. But one cycled a considerable distance laden with all the papers and paraphernalia. The feat required some courage as the journey through the mud, wind and rain must have been an unpleasant experience even to an active cyclist in a very fair state of training 07 03 09

1907 11 23

County official praised for auditing – 07 11 23a

1908

County Council negotiate over use of Town Council offices, would mean rebuilding Guildhall front & using all corporation property on South side of Market Hill - "would prove popular" [1.8]

1908 03 13

E. Wareham Harry was Cambridge Borough Surveyor for the past 20 years. In the repair of 50 miles of sewer trenches and the laying of miles of concrete paving he did work which deserves well of the town. When he came the roads were in an indifferent condition, many without any foundation while

others were merely coated with gravel. Now all the Macadam roads have been coated with granite. His efficiency was impaired by an attack of influenza and he died at his residence in Selwyn Gardens.
08 03 13

1908 03 24

Julian Julian appointed Borough Surveyor – 08 03 24

1908 04 27

Borough re-assessed, increased by £36,000 by Assessment Committee; problems over College assessment. Rates on domestic property high as to check popularity as a residential town – 08 04 27 [13.2]

1908 11 06

The first women candidates for Cambridge borough council have quickened interest in the recent elections. All though the day rumours of the arrival of the Pankhurst brigade were flying about with speculation that 50 militant females had arrived from London, but nobody saw any suffragettes. The crowd expressed their pleasure in cheers when it was announced that both the lady candidates, Miss Kennedy who stood in New Town and Miss Philpott who stood in Petersfield, had been defeated
CWN 08 11 06 p3

1910

Corporation seek powers to acquire waterworks, fails [1.18]

1910 03 04

Since the inauguration of County Councils 21 years ago they have grown enormously in importance and in power. Their responsibilities over public health, sanitation, water supply and the administration of the Poor Law will probably be increased in the new future. This throws the administration more and more into the hands of the officials. Ratepayers should take care to select their representatives but unfortunately the absurd practice still prevails locally of voting for councillors according to their political predilections and the best man is frequently defeated. 10 03 04e

1910 08 12

Trumpington amalgamation scheme discussed 10 08 12i 10 08 19b

1910 10 01

“It seems fashion to represent Cambridge as a sort of wolf which is seeking to devour its innocent neighbour Chesterton” [4.4]

1910 10 07

The scheme for extending the Borough boundaries so as to include Chesterton, Cherry Hinton and the urban portions of Grantchester, Trumpington and Fen Ditton was formally launched. The boundary with Chesterton is an imaginary line running down the centre of the river which presents legal difficulties over dredging. The river is used by member of the University for rowing but most of the boathouses are on the Chesterton side. The Corporation own a cemetery the parish of Fen Ditton. They have constructed a sewer and laid water mains along Newmarket Road and the land will no doubt be used for building. 10 10 07e & i & j

1910 11 04

The County Council needed extra offices for its staff. At present departments were housed in different buildings and councillors often went to the wrong one. They could take space in the Guildhall but would be paying rent that would assist the Borough to erect a very fine building in which they had no permanent share. It would be more economical to build on the Shire Hall site, removing the Chief Constable's house and other police buildings, but most convenient to purchase a building on a more central site. However they must bear in mind the great difference in cost 10 11 04a & b

1910 11 04

The County Council voted to spend £1,000 to oppose plans to enlarge the Cambridge boundaries and create a county borough. It was not in any sense a manufacturing town, though it was important as a railway centre and had important markets. The County Coroner's district would be reduced with his salary cut in consequence – the Borough would pay compensation for loss of remuneration – and the County police force would be reduced by one sergeant and four constables. In addition seven elementary schools and 2,700 children would be transferred to the Borough. But Cherry Hinton residents favoured amalgamation. 10 11 04h

1911

First Labour candidate, for Romsey Town, comes bottom of poll [4.20]

1911 02 03

The Inquiry into the extension of Cambridge borough boundaries heard that Cherry Hinton was part of Chesterton Rural District and divided into two wards. St John's was obviously an outgrowth of the town while the old village was in St Andrew's ward. The parish had the expenses of sewerage as a result of which their rates were very considerably in excess of the Borough rates. But the old village had no sewerage at all, the drainage being by means of cesspools. 11 02 03c 11 02 10b

1911 04 07

The Local Government Board is in favour of the extension of Cambridge to include parts of Chesterton, Cherry Hinton, Grantchester and Trumpington. 11 04 07f

1911 05 19

Greater Cambridge editorial: Chesterton UDC will cease to exist, parishes of Cherry Hinton, Trumpington and Grantchester will be divided and urban portions come into Cambridge 11 05 19c

1912

Local Government Boundaries Act extends area of Borough by 2,224 acres & increases population by 15,785 people, three new Wards added, councillors increased to 42 with 15 Aldermen [4.17]
Marks new epoch in municipal history [4.10] Chesterton UDC members elected to Borough council [4.11]

1912 02 02

The accumulation of duties from which the County Council is suffering as increased the amount of work to be got through at the quarterly meetings. Yesterday's lasted from ten in the morning until half-past three in the afternoon and most of the members had drifted out long before the end. There is a tendency to rush things and a general spirit of indifference due to weariness of the flesh. Chairmen of committees tend to leave the chamber when they have piloted through their own reports. Some alteration must be made. 12 02 02g. A new County Hall is needed. The existing clerk, a solicitor in private practice, works from his own office. The Education and Medical departments are on opposite sides of Sidney Street, the Finance Clerk in is Regent Street, the Architect in Hobson Street and the Surveyor in Hills Road. This is inconvenient and uneconomical and leads to inefficiency. 12 02 02h
Options : to use Assize court as council chamber & build new offices, Shire Hall (which felt to be too far from station); to join with Borough in new Guildhall or to build new offices [1.9,3.3,3.4,3.5]

1912 03 08

The last meeting of the Chesterton Urban District Council recalled the changes during the last 40 years. Before 1880 there were no street lamps, no sewage system, no street watering and an imperfect water supply. The paths were unkerbed, there was no collection of house refuse, no medical officer, no sanitary inspector, no recreation ground and very few allotments. The population had risen from 5,000 to 12,000. Now councillors would help improve the Borough of Cambridge at large 12 03 08f

1912 03 15

The County Council is to purchase Hobson Street Wesleyan Chapel and the adjoining house to build a Council Chamber and offices. The site is central and quiet and although the cost might appear to be high it would eventually result in a saving. There would be much greater efficiency to have all officials under one roof instead of them running backwards and forwards from one place to another. They would also need four less telephones, saving £30. 12 03 15f

1912 03 22

Polling opened in the three contested wards of the districts to be added to the Borough – Cambridge Without, North and West Chesterton - under the most depressing conditions. Rain fell heavily which had an adverse effect on turnout. A sharp thunderstorm came on about midday, a very unfortunate time for those who wished to record their votes during the dinner hour. Some of the flashes of lightning were so vivid and the peals of thunder so heavy that doors and windows rattled while the rainfall was almost tropical in its intensity. In Chesterton East John Bester, who has done more than any other for the amalgamation with Cambridge, was returned unopposed. 12 03 22d

1912 03 29

Today the population of the Borough of Cambridge is 40,560. On Monday it will be 57,073. The extension of the boundary now brings in Chesterton and the urban portions of Trumpington, Cherry Hinton and Grantchester. These suburbs were inhabited almost entirely by people whose living lay in Cambridge but were separated from it by the River Cam or purely artificial borders. It means that the residents will now be under the care of the Cambridge Town Council. 12 03 29c

1912 04 05

Cambridge councillors – photos & notes – H.F. Cook, R.H. Adie, W.P. Hollis, W.B. Westley, Jack French, W.E. Morrell – 12 04 05a; J. Bester, Ald Feast, Ald Johnson, H.G. Gray, Counc Conder, Counc Mills, P.J. Squires, W. Hawkins, Counc Lambert – 12 05 05b

1912 04 13

Leaflet issued “In memoriam of Chesterton whose spirit of independence passed away March 31 1912 at midnight” [4.6]

1912 04 19

One of the ancient University privileges is the power to grant licences for the sale of foreign wines. Licences have been granted to Bursars or stewards of colleges, college butlers or managers of college kitchens and to the custodian of Fitzwilliam Hall. Hotel keepers, grocers, chemists, confectioners, restaurant keepers, the manager of the refreshment room at the railway station and wine merchants also have a Vice-Chancellor’s licence which is free. But a wine-dealers licence cost ten guineas annually. Now this last relic of University control over the market and sale of provisions in Cambridge may be abolished 12 04 19b & c

1912 05 23

Additional aldermen due to borough expansion presents seating problems in council chamber [4.5]

1912 07 26

Cambridgeshire County Council does not appoint its own clerk even though he has supreme control of the whole of the county business. Some councillors felt this would cause friction with various heads of department. But it should check extravagance, waste and overlapping which has been almost inevitable in the present state of affairs with separate departments based in different buildings around Cambridge. The new clerk will be a whole-time officer and the whole of the scattered staff will be directly under his supervision in the new County Hall to be constructed in Hobson Street. 12 07 26e

1912 08 09

The County Council had considered various sites for a new County Hall. The purchase price of Hobson Street Wesleyan Chapel was £3,500 (£324,000 today) which was fair. In the chapel they had a good deal of material and the shell and outside walls would stand and be utilised. But it would not be sufficient. So they needed to purchase a house from Christ's College; they were not desirous of selling and the price of £2,500 was the least they would accept. The erection of county hall would increase the value of the other buildings in Hobson Street and help to bring a much-needed town improvement through the widening of Sussex Street. 12 08 09

1912 08 17

Opposition to proposed expenditure £14,100 to relieve traffic in Sidney Street; unwise to spend until liabilities due to expansion are known. If become County Borough then two bridges to be built to Chesterton, one within five years, then expand sanatorium, asylum, schools etc – 12 08 17

1912 10 12

County Council clerk resigns; new appointment still in hands of Standing Joint Committee, however is Bill before Parliament under which County Council will elect own Clerk [3.3,3.4]

1912 10 18

Ashley Tabrum appointed Clerk to County Council – 12 10 18e

1912 12 06

Inquiry begins into County Borough status, population over 50,000. Cambridge should be constituted a County Borough with power to manage its own affairs, an Inquiry was told. There had been a great deal of friction and dispute over roads At present if permission was required to open a drain the matter had to go first to the Borough and then the County. There was a considerable amount of overlapping of responsibilities and the whole thing was almost unworkable. As for schools: many county pupils were the sons of farmers and others engaged in agriculture and so education was designed for that class of scholar. 12 11 30 [4.8] 12 12 06 e & f 12 12 12

1913 01

County Borough : Sir George Fordham leads opposition on behalf of County - if Cambridge were taken away County would be unworkable; Cambridge claim that its residents have to pay half of the County rate in addition to their own [4.15,4.16,4.21,5.6]. The Cambridge County Borough Question is occupying attention to the exclusion of everything else. The Chamber of Agriculture says it would be disastrous to the county; they should urge the Government to raise the minimum population for a county borough to 100,000. Some voluntary arrangement would have been more economical and preserved the amicable relations between the two authorise. Now there is no reason to hope that there can be anything but a fight to the finish. 13 03 21 p4 & p6 CIP. County Borough Bill, deputation to Prime Minister 13 05 02 p10 CIP. County Borough bill, 2nd reading carried 13 07 04 p7 CIP County Borough Bill before Select Committee 13 07 18 p8-9 CIP County Councillor Fordham whipping up rural unrest over County Borough Bill 13 08 23

1913 07 13

Guildhall extension proposed using ground floor for library [4.13]. New Ratepayers Association formed, begins in Chesterton & spreads to Borough; feelings whipped up, petition against Guildhall extension 13 07 04 p9 CIP, 13 08 01 p10 CIP

1913 07 19

Council meetings may move from Thursday now early closing coming; editors protest as too much news 13 07 19

1913 10 10

Cambridge Ratepayers Association is to adopt two candidates for the November council elections. The greatest thing was that they were non-political. It was ridiculous to see all the Conservatives on one side voting one way and the Liberals the other. Voting should be done according to the good a

councillor thought would be done to the ratepayers. It was hardly the thing that when a man got too old for business he should think it was time to start in public life. They were some who had lost some of their faculties and could not hear. 13 10 10 p5 CIP

1913 10 31

A new Act of Parliament imposed further duties on County Councils. The best thing they could do was to go on strike and say they were not going to take any more burdens on or find more money for various things the Government send down, unless they paid a good proportion of the expense. But then the Government might come down, do the work and charge the Council with the expense. 13 10 31 p11 CIP

1913 11 31

Councillors queried the cost of furnishing the new County Hall. It was not a club and should not be furnished as if it were. It was suggested the Clerk should have a Turkey carpet costing £22 10s. and a writing table costing £35. This was extravagant. Councillors' seats would be of oak and covered with pigskin. But they should be cheap and uncomfortable since they would only spend a few hours there during the year. But the whole thing was already finished, and nothing could be done, they were told. 13 11 31 p12 CIP

1913 12 19

Plans for alterations at the rear of the Guildhall were shelved after the Ratepayers Association raised a petition. They had to face a loss on the trams, the Borough Bill, Chesterton footbridge and other improvements and as the Colleges were building rapidly the town landladies found it hard to pay their rates. Now the County Council had decided to build their new offices in Hobson Street. They had been debating since 1907 and all the expense and time had been worthless. But the Free Library was over-crowded and disease was spread in libraries where people were constantly sitting together 13 12 19 p7 CIP [4.12,4.13,4.22,5.3]

1914 01 23

Cambridge Ratepayers' Association are proclaiming that they have been the means of "scotching" the Borough Council's scheme for the enlargement of the Guildhall ... the number of signatures obtained for their monster petition being a plain indication that the great majority of the ratepayers were against such a costly proceeding. One cannot but realise the need which exists for better Public Library accommodation, and it is to be hoped the dropping of the larger scheme will not prevent the work of extending and improving the Library being carried through. 14 01 23 CIP of

1914 02 06

At the opening of the new County Hall in Hobson Street the chairman thanked the Town Council for allowing them to use their council chamber and committee rooms for the past 25 years. In 1747 the old Shire Hall had been built on Market Hill above arches where butchers had their stalls on market days. In 1842 this passed to the town when a new Shire Hall at Castle Hill was ready for occupation. But the enormous development of administrative business had now brought the County Council again into the centre to this new commodious and economical building, finally bringing together departments previously distributed in all parts of the town. 14 02 06, a-c

1914 03 27

The Cambridge County Borough Bill (with which were included Wakefield and Luton) was defeated in the House of Commons. It would inflict great hardship on the county. If it were taken away the rest of the area would be almost entirely agricultural, some MPs said. But the County Council would be more efficient if all members represented agricultural interests rather than the urban interests of the Borough, the Cambridge MP contended. 14 03 27f; A farce – editorial – 14 03 27d; "Not 25 MPs knew what the question was ... members pushed into lobbies" 14 03 28; great jubilation the County ... Sir George Fordham but disappointment in the Borough, 14 03 27 CIP of

1914 04

Inquiry into application acquire land Pretoria Road footbridge, widening Grantchester Road & Hat & Feathers Lane [5.8]

1914 04 04

County Borough powers over secondary as well as elementary schools, controls over main roads, gets grant-in-aid direct from HQ and not via County Council. Contribute nothing to county rate – but Cambridge has half assessed value of whole county – people pay Borough rate and half county rate too 14 04 04 [5.6]

1914 04 10

Opposition to Guildhall Enlargement - resolution condemns ... if the Corporation require further accommodation for their officials, they should hire offices outside for the Education Department 14 04 10 CIPof

1914 05 08

It is with deep regret we record the death of ex-Alderman George Kett, J.P. It was only in November he resigned his council seat after long and valued service, having been Mayor three times. The firm of Rattee & Kett, ecclesiastical builders was founded in 1854 and he became head on the death of his father in 1872. The Catholic Church was erected under his direction but the work of his life was the restoration of Arundel Castle where 400-500 men were employed at one time. He retired in 1904 and his son, G.R. Kett is now head of the firm 14 05 08f

1914 07 10

Borough Council sued by Sidney Sussex College, for taking (compulsorily) of a strip of land for widening of Sidney Street and Jesus Lane. Cambridge. The total claim amounted to about £2.650. 14 07 10 CIPof

1914 10 02

Guildhall extension for library, education offices, juvenile bureau and Medical Officer of Health 14 10 02

1914 10 02

It was hoped that Cambridge municipal elections would pass off without a contest but the Labour Party, who are still without a seat, have decided to attack two seats. One of these is Romsey Town where Tom Orrey will again be the candidate for the sixth time. In Fitzwilliam Ward we have the novel experience of a lady candidate for the first time under the new Qualification Act., Mrs J.M. Keynes, chairman of the National Union of Women Workers 14 10 02

1914 10 14

It was not until 1914 that the Government were induced to bring in a short Bill 'to remove various anomalies; ...under which married women, although otherwise qualified, cannot be councillors ... of a Municipal Borough. This Act received the Royal Assent on August 7th 1914 and Cambridge was the first place to make use of the Act, but during the war ordinary elections having been replaced by co-option, only one woman councillor secured a seat. Mrs Keynes, wife of Dr J.N. Keynes, the Registrar of the University, has been elected a member of the Cambridge Town Council, the first lady to sit – Hull Daily Mail, 14 Oct 1914

1914 10 23

The Cambridge Borough Council meeting was notable for the fact that for the first time in the history a lady took her seat. Mrs Keynes, the new representative of Fitzwilliam Ward, was cordially welcomed by the Mayor. Being the first lady councillor she had not had to contest the election, but others should not take this as a precedent. If in the future a lady ever became Mayor then she would have the first call 14 10 23

1915 02 12

Education employees, clerks and officials working for the Corporation and who fall ill receive full wages for the first eight weeks and half wages for the next eight. This is in addition to the sickness benefit and means that they are considerably better off than when at work. But in the case of workmen the Council makes no payment at all, the scavengers and roadmen simply receiving their ten shillings sick pay from the state. Both sets of employees are essential to the town's welfare and it is unjust they should be treated so differently 15 02 12

1915 04 23

Askew Wilson, sergeant-at-mace for 40 years, death 15 04 23 p5

1915 07 16

Guildhall extension accounts debate, includes payment made to E.C. Meech, tobacconist whose premises have been demolished for new building 15 07 16 p6

1915 10 22

Borough council committee investigate efficiency – detailed account 15 10 22 p7 CIP

1916 03 22

Death of Ald. W. P. Spalding. He was the eldest son of a printer, stationer and bookseller, Mr. William Spalding (Ipswich), and was apprenticed to his father. He started business in Cambridge on his own account in Sidney Street, Cambridge, in 1873. This prospered and was enlarged in many ways, and in 1881 he became a member of the Cambridge Town Council, proving an expert debater and administrator. Mr. Spalding was elected to the aldermanic bench and in 1908 was chosen Mayor in succession to his friend, Mr. H. G. Whibley. He had been appointed a J.P. in 1897. During 35 years of faithful public service, Ald. Spalding left his mark in many ways upon the affairs of the borough 16 03 22 CIPof

1916 07 23

Bushel Anningson, Medical Officer of Health - port, obituary – 16 07 26e, f

1917 07

Mrs Adeane elected 1st lady Alderman County Council 17 03 [1.16]

1917 12 12

Mayor a D.D. A most animated spectacle was provided in the Senate House on Friday afternoon, when the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon the Rev. E. C. Pearce. Master of Corpus and Mayor of Cambridge, in the presence of a large gathering of members of the University and of the aldermen and councillors of the Borough Council, who attended at the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor. The occasion was unique, as there is no record of any previous Mayor of Cambridge having been an official member, and certainly not one of the presiding chiefs of the municipality receiving a degree, honorary or otherwise from the University during his year of office. It also had further interest from the fact that the Mayor's brother, the Ven. E. H. Pearce, Archdeacon of Westminster, was to receive from the same Congregation the degree of Doctor of Letters 17 12 12 CIPof

1918 07 31

Mr. J. W. Jacob born in 1865, began work at the Guildhall at the age of 15, assisting his father, who was hall-keeper there for 30 years. In 1884 he was appointed Sergeant at Mace, and continuing in that capacity for 16 years, he succeeded his father as hall-keeper in 1900. 18 07 31 CIPof

1919

Major Dermot Freyer, first socialist member of City Council joined in 1919 and represented Petersfield until 1937; elected an hour before Clara Rackham – 65 01 11a

1920 06 30

Council Staff. The County Hall Committee has considered the resolution of the Cambs. County Council that the time has arrived when it is necessary to provide increased accommodation for the Council's staff. Sir Douglas Newton reported the result of an interview with the Bursar of Christ's College if they are prepared to sell Bene't House. The owners of the ground rents of the adjoining properties occupied by Mr. P. Morley and Messrs. Eaden Lilley and Co., Ltd., are to be approached with a view to the purchase of the freehold of the property, and Mr. Percy W. Gray. (Scruby and Gray) was asked to advise the Committee what offer they should make for the Riding School site. At a subsequent meeting the Clerk of the Council reported as to negotiations for adjoining property, and submitted a valuation by Messrs. Scruby and Gray for the Riding School site. It was then agreed to recommend the County Council to authorise the Committee to make an offer for the Riding School site for the amount of the valuation. The Committee also resolved that the amount to be reported to the County Finance Committee as the sum likely to be required for capital expenditure during the next five years should be: Extension of County Hall, including site and equipment, £21,000 20 06 30 CIPof

1920 12 15

Six ex-Mayors honoured at Cambridge dinner, an historic gathering - CDN 20 12 15

1921 01

Rigid economy key note local administration for year; reduction of £10,000 in county estimates main road expenditure 21 01 [1.17]

1921 07 27

A serious position has arisen in connection with the scheme for the erecting of houses by Cambridge Borough Council at Chesterton Road & Milton Road. The site was purchased some time ago and prepared for erection of 60 houses by direct labour. Construction of roads and sewers put in place. But Minister refuses to sanction other work unless whole of expense is borne by local rates. Work to stop and town will have a building site which cost over £14,000. It is impossible to proceed with building scheme without Government assistance – 21 07 27c

1923 09 15

We regret to record the death of Mr J E L Whitehead, town clerk of Cambridge. He attended Emmanuel College and took the law as his profession, being articled to his uncle who was many years Borough Treasurer. He practised at an office in Alexandra Street until he was appointed town clerk in succession to Mr Edmund Foster in August 1887. For many years he was a member of the Cam sailing club and was a prominent member of the Bijou Amateur dramatic Club and played juvenile lead in many of their productions 23 09 15

1923 12 15

Cambridge town council formally received the resignation of the borough surveyor, Mr Julian Julian. He said in a letter that work on roads, bridges, planning etc had been delayed and he had found that people had attributed these delays to the weakness of him and his staff. Councillor Stubbs said they had lost a brilliant surveyor. His department had been understaffed and he had been struggling alone and it appeared that he would not have resigned had he been given help c23 12 15

1924 03 31

Judge investigates Scotland Road land transaction – 24 03 31

1924 05 10

Borough defalcation – report – 1924 05 10

1924 08 16

There has been quite a fluttering in the political dovecotes at the nomination of a lady as Mayor of Cambridge. There are some anti-feminists who cannot bear the idea of a woman taking any prominent part in public life. It has been suggested that if the Liberals were determined to have a woman Mayor

they should have chosen Mrs Keynes, but one can imagine the outcry if an attempt had been made to bring her back to the Council by way of the Mayoral chair c24 08 16

1924 11 11

Councillor Mrs Hartree was elected first lady mayor of the Borough of Cambridge. She accepted the honour as a representative of the women of Cambridge who desired to work side by side with the men in the service of their town. She had consulted some authorities, and some of the women, and it had been decided the best mode of addressing the Mayor would be "Mr Mayor" as usual. (Hear, hear and applause) c24 11 11

1925 01 12

A fire broke out in the Grand Jury Room at the Shire Hall which destroyed all the woodwork and furniture. It is a large room is situated at the front of the building on the Police Station side and contained a table and some chairs. A stairway leads from it to the grand jury gallery in the Crown Court and it was through the fire roaring up these stairs that damage was done to the court by smoke and steam c25 01 12 [1.20]

1925 12

Council accept £2,700 in settlement of action against former auditors [2.9,5.24]

1926 07 24

County council squabble – should they pay for Drummer Street bus station 26 07 24 [1.10]

1927 02 28

Hearty congratulations to Mr A. Townsend, the Assistant Town Clerk, who has completed 50 years' service with Cambridge Corporation. Hard work and a cheerful disposition have contrived to keep him young. The Town Clerk presented him with a silver cigarette case. Two more officials have completed 40 years' service. Mr N.C. Hedge joined the Town Clerk's department as an office boy and never left, while Mr H.E. Foster joined at the same time but later transferred to the Treasurer's office. CDN c28.2.1927

1927 09 18

Premises in Peas Hill, Cambridge, may be acquired for the purpose of extending the Guildhall. Trinity Hall, the owners of nos 15 & 16 will sell for £5,500; Mr Sennitt will sell no.17 for £3,500, the price to include compensation for disturbance of the business and the tenant to have the option of hiring the premises until required by the Corporation. Corpus Christi College has agreed £2,200 for no.19. The Council is to apply to the Minister of Health for sanction to borrow the sum of £11,700 for the purchase c27 09 18. An inquiry was held into Cambridge council's application to borrow money for the purchase of property in Peas Hill for an extension of the Guildhall. There was an increase of administrative staff and the offices were not adequate to enable the duties to be carried out efficiently. With the acquisition of the property the Corporation would hold the entire island site which would facilitate the suggested scheme for the reconstruction of the Guildhall. They had been met in a conciliatory spirit by the owners of the property and a favourable provisional agreement had been arrived at c28 01 23

1928 01 08

The Home Secretary has decided to discontinue the Cambridge prison on Castle Hill and has offered it to the County Council for £4,812. The buildings consist of a central block comprising laundry, workshop, kitchen, labour cells, ladder store, hospital, photographers' hut, execution shed, schoolroom and governor's house. The Office of Works wishes to lease the main buildings to store their records in. This would not prevent the council in the future from building a new county hall on the prison site. c28 01 08 An interesting discussion in regard to the future of Cambridge Prison and the Castle Mound took place at a meeting of the County Council. The Home Secretary would convey it to them for £4,812. The County did not want the mound, which was more closely connected with Cambridge than the rest of the county. All persons interested, including the Borough Council and the

Cambridge Antiquarian Society would be consulted when its future was settled. Something was also said about the possibility of removing the County Hall in Hobson Street to the Shire Hall site c28 01 County council order preparation plans for a new Shire Hall, Castle Hill, on site of County Gaol, this had stood idle since prisoners transferred to Huntingdon gaol; in 1919 the building had been fitted up as a branch repository of the Public Record Office. Site acquired for County Council, records sent away, & new Shire Hall started using bricks from the old gaol 28 05 [2.2]

1928 05 09

Less than 20 years ago I was doing journalistic work in a Hobson Street office. In those days there was no County Hall opposite, nor talk of one. It was begun only 15 years ago and if anyone had been asked how long it would remain the County Council headquarters he might have answered 'A hundred years at least'. But so great has been the extra work thrown on the Council that already the building has been outgrown and plans are now to be prepared for a new building on the Castle Hill site. There are now 86 officials and ratepayers may ask if such an army of officers are really necessary c28 05 09

1928 08

Arrangement over election of Mayors changed, to be nominated by groups in alternate years, Labour disagree [2.18]

1929 01 28

The County Architect presented sketch plans for a new building on the Cambridge castle site, containing office accommodation, with council chamber, library and storerooms. It was futile to prepare plans for their existing needs when it was practically certain that under the new Local Government Bill they would have a large amount of additional work thrown upon them. Mr Dunn had erected the present County Hall in Hobson Street & was able to compete with the best architects in the country with regard to a beautiful scheme and a beautiful building. But if he was forced to collaborate with another architect there would be delays and they would never get the building erected. CDN c 28.1.1929

1929 01 29

Certain documents of an historical nature are stored in Cambridge prison on Castle Hill and access is permitted to University students for the purpose of study. But if a County Hall is built on the site the Prison will be pulled down and the documents removed. The University fears that they would lose a very big educational factor and urge the County Council to provide accommodation for them in their new building. Having regard to the tendency of modern legislation to give Councils more work they would probably require considerably more accommodation at the end of 20 years and such storage would then be valuable for administrative purposes. CDN c 29.1.1929

1929 09

Discuss Guildhall enlargement, consider alternative site [2.19]

1929 11 04

The Government Office of Works have made arrangements for the records at present stored in the old Prison on Castle Hill, to be removed from Cambridge to another disused gaol. It is their policy to concentrate such records at Canterbury. The Governor's House at the old Prison will be adapted to provide temporary accommodation for county council staff and rooms in the prison gatehouse used for storage purposes. This has released accommodation at the County Hall for other departments CDN 4.11.1929

1930 01

County council reject proposal that would have abandoned Shire Hall plans [2.16]

1930 06 20

The old county gaol at Castle Hill was opened to the public. Since 1916 when it was closed because of a scarcity of prisoners – it has been said there were not enough to keep the place clean – the prison has only been used for Government record purposes. Then it changed hands and became the property of the County Council; a writer to the CDN threw out the suggestion that it should be opened for public visitation, and the scheme became an actuality 30 06 20a

1930 07

Mayor visits Cambridge, U.S.A., overwhelmed with generous hospitality [2.20]

1930 07 19

Queen Victoria's portrait has been moved from the Council Chamber at Cambridge Guildhall and replaced by a fine picture of Mr George Fisher who was mayor in 1840-1-2. It was originally presented by his son, but owing to its dilapidated state was not hung at the time. His grand-daughter Miss Enid Hudson has contributed to its renovation, carried out by Messrs Perry Leach and Son.. It now hangs next to the portrait of the late Ald. Kett. 30 07 19

1930 10

Ask for extension of Borough boundaries to include whole of Town Planning area [2.21]

1931 04

Seek Bill to acquire Waterworks Company, [3.1]

1931 05 01

Cambridge led the way in making it an offence to sell short weight of food. It was usual to sell butter by the yard, with each yard weighing 1lb [and a penalty was imposed for those underweight. Its position of Inspector of Weights and Measures was also unique. Prior to 1856 the University held the powers and when these were transferred to the town they were granted the right to appoint an additional inspector should they feel dissatisfied. So far they have not exercised that right. 31 05 01b

1931 06 12

Mrs Keynes elected first woman alderman – 31 06 12aa

1931 08 21

The parishes of Histon and Impington will vote on proposals for an extended Borough of Cambridge taking in the rural district within a three-mile radius. There was little desire on the part of rural residents to come into the Borough, there was no real community or interest between them. Cambridge would really be a little county with a population greater than Huntingdonshire. But what was left of Chesterton RDC would be unable to function and the administration of the rest of the county would be extremely difficult. 31 08 21c

1931 10 16

An Inquiry opened into plans to expand Cambridge's boundaries. It was the centre for education, shopping and amusement for adjacent villages where people were still dependent on cesspools: these would be provided with a sewerage system. Less than 500 acres were available for building because of the attitude of certain colleges, but it was undesirable that Cambridge should be filled up as if it were a manufacturing town. Most of the new houses in Shelford and Trumpington were of the working-class type. 31 10 16d

1931 10 23

Sewerage arrangement – evidence at Borough boundary expansion inquiry – 31 10 23a

1931 11 13

Ald Raynes Mayor – memories – 31 11 13a & aa

1931 11 13

Council officials offer take reduction salary – 31 11 13b & bb

1931 12

Ratepayer reject Bill to acquire Waterworks Company [3.1]

1932 02 25

Apart from the large hall and council chamber the Cambridge Guildhall is worn out and absolutely unsuitable. The accommodation in every department was deplorable – dark, dismal, horrid, unlit and unhealthy. On Castle Hill there was a fine new building being erected for the County Council who were planning to spend £8,000 on furnishing alone. Never since the war had prices in the building trade been lower; this was the right moment to consider rebuilding, councillors were told. 32 02 25 & 25a

1932 06 04

A new Cambridge Guildhall should be built on the corner of East Road and Parkside where the site is three times as large, meeting the requirements of the Corporation for many years. The existing Guildhall on Market Hill should be replaced with shops on the ground floor and offices and flats above, councillors have recommended. 32 06 04a, 06a, 06aa

1932 06 09

New Guildhall debate, consider moving to Parkside – 32 06 09a, 32 06 15, 32 06 20 & a, 32 06 21

1932 07 15

Cambridge councillors say the municipal buildings should remain on the Guildhall site and not move to Parkside as had been proposed. It should be a worthy building, not surrounded by shops. With four floors they could provide 70 per cent more accommodation for officials but five would add to the dignity of the building and leave some surplus space that could be let and provide a source of income. But it must not overwhelm the market place. 32 07 15 c & d

1932 07 15

The new Shire Hall was opened with little ceremony in the presence of a handful of people. The Architect (H.H. Dunn) presented the Chairman, Ald W.C. Jackson, with a gold-covered key engraved with the County Arms with which he unlocked the door. Soon a stream of guest arrived and the corridors presented a most animated appearance. The council chamber is very similar to that at the old County Hall in Hobson Street from which all the seats and tables have been removed while every care has been taken to provide the maximum air, light and spaciousness to the offices. Used bricks from old gaol. “New Shire Hall shames town” 32 07 15e & f [1.5]

1932 07 29

Cambridgeshire County Council held their first meeting at the new administrative buildings on the Castle site when the recommendation that it be called ‘Shire Hall’ was adopted without discussion. It was admirably suited to its purpose without any frills and decorations. But Councillor Fordham regretted the purchase of two Turkey carpets for the councillors’ room at cost of £37 32 07 29a & b

1932 11 11

A half-century of work in Cambridge was recognised when Alderman Florence Ada Keynes was elected as Mayor. She had been the first woman councillor and had served as Chairman of the Board of Guardians. Mrs Keynes said that they may be compelled to make cuts, but should not make a cult of economy. They should preserve the social services and promote employment. Something like 1,300 men and women were out of work, constituting a serious situation and bringing grievous loss to the workers; she hoped to mitigate the situation 32 11 11d

1933 01 30

Guildhall ‘by instalments’ plan – 33 01 30e

1933 02 02

Guildhall development on Peas Hills front proposed 33 02 02c & d. Guildhall rebuilding cartoon – 33 02 04e. Guildhall plans – 33 04 14a

1933 03 25

Cambridge boundary extension proposals agreed, want borough extended by 5,573 acres – 33 03 25 & a & b

1933 04 20

Cambridge councillors considered schemes for the rebuilding of the Guildhall. One would alter the whole site, the other would set back the front but the building on Guildhall Street would remain untouched and would revert to being a court. But some councillors thought the Parkside scheme was still the best and would be far cheaper. 33 04 20c & d

1933 04 23

The mallet and trowel used by the Mayor, Alderman Wace, at the laying of the foundation stone of Victoria Avenue bridge has been offered to the Council. He was the first to wear the Mayoral chain presented by Colonel Harding's family and the first, certainly in recent times, to be presented with a silver cradle on the birth of a son in 1890 during his year of office. 33 04 23

1933 05 08

The County Council is to change their staff's weekly half-holiday from Thursday to Saturday, although the Clerk can to require the attendance of any member of staff on any Saturday afternoon if desirable. However senior officials should not lose their half-day. The public would have no cause for objection, though last Saturday afternoon 50 people applied for licences. The Guildhall has closed on Saturday afternoons for many years. 33 05 08

1933 05 23

An inquiry into the extension of Cambridge boundaries was told that Girton should be included. Most of the residents worked in the town and it was their shopping and amusement centre. The sewage could drain by gravitation into Cambridge drains which were already almost up to the boundaries. Chesterton RDC did have a scheme but it was a complete mystery. The Mistress of Girton College said the question of drainage was one of urgency and she would also welcome public lighting and refuse collection. 33 05 23 & a 33 05 24a & b. Borough expansion inquiry closes – 33 05 25b & c

1933 06 26

Guildhall scheme approved – 33 06 26 & a

1933 07 06

Two ancient silver spoons were presented to Cambridge Corporation. They were part of a collection of plate sold by the Council in 1836 – in those days even property passed into private hands in return for a good dinner - now they wanted to retrieve them. They had bought back one of six spoons and were seeking the gem of the collection, a rose bowl. 33 07 06 p8, 33 06 20a & b

1933 07 31

The old County Hall in Hobson Street was supposed to be sold with the proceeds being used to pay for the new Shire Hall on Castle Hill. But now little tin advertising 'To Let' signs had appeared and there didn't seem to be the slightest attempt to sell it, a councillor complained. But every effort had been made to dispose of it without success and they were now hoping to let a portion to the Government's Office of Works which would suit the council equally as well as a sale. 33 07 31

1933 08 10

Boundary decision – bigger borough approved – 33 08 10 – allows expansion to take in Cherry Hinton and Trumpington as well as land off Arbury and Milton Roads

1933 08 11

The veranda or shelter over the main entrance of the Guildhall was disgustingly dirty and unsafe and should be removed, the Surveyor reported. It had been built in 1878 and the public should get used to the Guildhall without it because it would not be incorporated in the new building. Others said it was a useful shelter and should be maintained at all costs: the Preservation Society would be shocked if they allowed that ancient piece of architecture to be scrapped. 33 08 11

1933 09 19

Cambridge Guildhall dated back to about 1782 and there had been various extensions. In 1928 the Corporation bought shops in Peas Hill to allow for rebuilding. The possibility of providing shops on the ground floor had been considered but this would not allow sufficient offices for the extra staff needed to cope with their increased duties, an Inquiry was told 33 09 19

1933 11 07

Mrs Keynes 2nd woman Mayor reviews her year – 33 11 07

1933 11 25

Suggestion for amalgamation Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely county councils 33 11 25 [1.12]

1933 12

Chesterton RDC decide to move to County Hall, Hobson Street 33 12 [3.17]

1934 01 05

Chesterton RDC take County Hall 34 01 05 [1.2]

1934 03 23

Linton, Melbourn and Swavesey R.D.C.s dissolved, last meeting 34 03 23 [1.2]

1934 04 03

The Mayor and councillors performed the ceremony of 'beating the bounds' to mark the addition of additional areas to the Borough. They began at the east end of the cemetery grounds on Newmarket Road then toured Cherry Hinton before moving on to Trumpington where the new boundary begins on the town side of Long Road. Here the Mayor cut a light-blue silk ribbon before formally stepping into the new territory. Then after visiting the boundary a quarter of a mile beyond the L.M.S. railway bridge on the Shelford Road they were entertained to tea 34 04 03 boundary extended, now covers 10,000 acres (1910 was 3,200 acres)

1934 04 10

An inquiry into the sale of land in Scotland Road heard it had been offered to the corporation by Mr A.E. Few in 1929 but they'd turned it down. The land was subsequently bought by a private individual for £2,600. But when it was needed for the Hundred Houses Society the new owner had sold it to the council for £3,200. It was a good profit but the inspector cleared the council of any maladministration. 34 04 10 [1.24]

1934 04 25

The first meeting of the new Chesterton Rural District Council was held in the County Hall. New councillors were told they had to consider problems such as water sewage, dust collection and lighting. They discussed a grant towards cleaning out a Harston pond. It was a 'disputable pond' – the village made use of it but it was private property. 34 04 25 [1.2, 2.17]

1934 06 30

Alderman W.P. Spalding started the collection of portraits of Cambridge mayors at the Guildhall and it is now traditional for outgoing Mayors to present framed pictures of themselves. But one hung for

many years as Charles Humfrey, Mayor 1837-38, has now been identified as being his brother. It has now been replaced. 34 06 30

1934 08 13

S.R. Ginn, county council clerk 13 years, former Mayor – 34 08 13

1934 10 10

‘Overture to Cambridge’ had its premiere at the Festival Theatre. The play, written and produced by the Director, Joseph Gordon Macleod, exposes the pettiness of Town Gown and University. It tells of an invalided idealistic Mayor who comes to be regarded as a madman. His wife is killed in a car accident, his daughter becomes deranged and he falls to his death whilst addressing a meeting after being ‘debagged’ by a crowd of undergraduates. As he hovers between life and death he sees the future, with people living in the co-operative ideal which he preached. 34 10 10

1934 11 29

An inquiry heard that in 1835 Cambridge was divided into five wards with 30 councillors and ten aldermen. This continued till 1889 when the University were given representation. Further changes came in 1909 and 1911 but the council was now a little unwieldy and numbers should be reduced. However the University representation would be unchanged 34 11 29b

1934 11 05

Alex Spalding’s Mayoral year of office reviewed 34 11 05 & a

1934 11 09

Alderman Ralph Starr Mayor – profile – 34 11 09 & a & b

1935 01 02

Guildhall – architect’s drawing – 35 01 02

1935 03 13

A packed public meeting at Cambridge Guildhall voted against plans for a new building and called on the council to remodel the front to a more dignified style of architecture. Cambridge was a treasure house of architectural gems and they had no right to hand down to posterity a freak building, a flat and uninteresting example of early 20th-century abominations. Another motion dealing with the question of shops on the Peas Hill side of the building received scant attention as most of the audience had left before the end. 35 03 13 & a

1935 05 01

The Guildhall Protest Committee criticised plans for a useless portico of a most ornate and incongruous style which could be ‘put on cold’ in from of the proposed façade of the new Guildhall in two years’ time if the town really wanted it. The main entrance should be on Market Hill. It would allow a terrace which would form a platform for addressing meetings on Market Hill and give a façade of distinction that the people strongly desire. There was also intense feeling regarding the question of shops on the Peas Hill side 35 05 01

1935 05 16

Councillors argued over proposals for the Guildhall. Some wanted to spend £200,000 on the old building and still have a patchwork quilt, whereas they could have an entirely new one for £150,000. Peas Hill never had been and never would be a business centre and shops there would never be a paying proposition. The dispute had started with an unfortunate illustration of the façade in the ‘Sunday Times’ but the design was undoubtedly a dignified building of its kind and the average elector would vote for anything, if it were as ugly as sin, if it would only save a bit on the rates.. However Councillor Stubbs said if it had been built on Donkey Common as he’d suggested some years ago the council would not be in the muddle it was today. 35 05 16a & b

1935 10 05

Guildhall small hall demolition started – TT 35 10 05

1935 10 17

The foundations of the Small Room of the Guildhall, which also supported the Borough Surveyor's room, are in such bad conditions that they must be demolished earlier than planned. It had been hoped to defer demolition until the Surveyor could move into the new wing of the Guildhall being built on Peas Hill. A ditch had been found under the site. Assurances were sought that the foundations of the rest of the Guildhall, especially the Large Room, were secure because weaknesses were not generally found in one spot but existed in veins all over the area. 35 10 17a

1936 11 07

Cambridge Town Council will make history when it elects a Labour Mayor for the first time. Having retired from the railway service, Ald W.L. Briggs will be able to devote the whole of his time to the duties. But his fellow citizens will not expect him to entertain on the same lavish scale that some Mayors have been able to do. Some people think the mayoral grant is sufficient to meet all demands made upon the holder, but this is not so and it is often necessary to dig pretty deeply into one's own pocket. Ald Briggs deserves further congratulations for he has just passed his motor driving test 36 11 07a cartoon 36 11 07b 36 11 09b

1936 11 14

Woman council bailiff appointed – 36 11 14a

1937 03 05

County hit by Government block grants 31 03 05 [1.1]

1937 10 16

Borough council hold first meeting at Shire Hall 37 10 16 [2.18]

1937 11 02

Mayor W.L. Briggs' year in office – review – 37 11 02 & a

1937 11 09

Ernest Saville Peck elected Mayor – 37 11 09

1938 01 07

The demolition of parts of the old Guildhall has meant that several annual functions have lost their normal home. But a Mayoral reception elsewhere than in the Guildhall must surely be unique in Cambridge history. It is symbolic of the happy relations existing between the Town and the University that the Old Schools should have been placed at the disposal of the councillors. Cars containing guests pulled up on King's Parade and a lengthy walk under illuminated awnings led to the Dome Room. The Council Room, East Room, Syndicate Room and Regent House were in use but only the dais where the orchestra played for dancing was decorated 38 01 07

1938 01 14

The old Shire Hall on Cambridge Market Hill, was erected in 1747. At that a time the 14th-century Guildhall which stood on the south of Butter Row was under repair. This was pulled down in 1782 to be replaced by the Guildhall built by James Essex. Now demolition has revealed a fragment of the medieval Guildhall. Two pieces of ancient oak carved with leaves are thought to date from 1386. They will be replaced in the new building 38 01 14b

1938 05 31

Half a century's changes in local government – 38 05 31j

1938 05 31

Women's part in Cambridge's progress: pioneers on Board of Guardians, council and bench by Ald Mrs F.A. Keynes – 38 05 31m

1938 06 24

The new Cambridge Guildhall basement could be regarded as splinter-proof and it would not be difficult to render it gas-resisting, the Air Raid Precautions Committee heard. If not done they could be criticised for allowing a public building without adequate protection and could not ask other stores or factories to comply with such regulations. But it would need to have 25 feet of concrete, with earth on top, to make it bomb-proof. It was absolutely and entirely impossible. 38 06 24a & b

1938 11 12

Mrs F.A. Keynes has rendered magnificent service to Cambridge council; her election for Fitzwilliam Ward in 1914 followed the passing of the County and Borough Councils Qualification Bill. Previously a married woman, although otherwise qualified, could not be a councillor, whereas an unmarried woman could be. Mrs Keynes was largely instrumental in persuading the Government to alter this state of affairs and it was fitting that she should be among the first women in the country to be elected. She was elected first woman alderman of Cambridge in 1931. 38 11 12

1938 12 10

Queens' College have commenced a Chancery Court action against Cambridge Corporation seeking to prevent them from diverting the Cam at the sluice near the former King's and Bishop's mill so as to undermine the college buildings in Silver Street and seeking £5.150 damages for damage already caused. The Town Clerk has been instructed to protect the Corporation's interest and take any action advised by their counsel 38 12 10

1939 07 22

The new Cambridge Guildhall will be opened on October 9th by the Earl of Derby. The grand staircase is much more imposing than the old one, the new small room, complete with carpet, will be very convenient and the large hall improved though it is not nearly large enough for conferences, political mass meetings or big musical enterprises. The new Council chamber also seems on the small side and the aldermanic bench has been considerably shortened. 39 07 22b

1939 07 28

Cambridge Town council held its last meeting at Shire Hall while the Guildhall was reconstructed. The Library committee asked to use the Small Room as temporary reading room during the re-arrangement of the Central Library. But it had a very expensive carpet that might get spoilt. The library might use the Corn Exchange annexe if the cycles were moved. Ald Briggs said that was not a proper alternative: "The fact is that we have had made a beautiful Guildhall, but must not use it". The carpet could be taken up. But the Guildhall might not be finished by that time and it would be unfortunate if people were allowed in the Small Room before the rest were completed. The request was denied. 39 07 28b & c

1939 09 23

County council employees called up to fight will have their army wages made up to what they would have received. But what other employer would think of many up salaries in this way? They were already more fortunate than others because their jobs would be kept open for them. But they would have to be replaced meaning wages and salaries would be re-duplicated. Many people in business would have to close, others were working for nothing. Properties would fall into the hands of the receivers and rateable values go down, councillors heard 39 09 23 Cambridge does same. 39 09 25

1939 10 12

Guildhall first council meeting in Guildhall. 39 10 12a & 12b [and see Memories 20th Oct 2014]

1939 10 14

Guildhall official opening cancelled. 39 10 14

1941 11 14

The Master of Pembroke, Sir Montagu Butler, was unanimously elected Mayor of Cambridge in succession to Ald. E. O. Brown at the annual meeting of the Town Council on Monday. Proposing his election, Ald. Pollock said few of the Council members would remember the last occasion when the Head of a college—Dr. Pearce —was appointed Mayor. Ald. Pollock recalled that Sir Montagu Butler, unlike some other College Heads who has served on the Council, was educated at Cambridge, taking a brilliant classics degree at Pembroke, at which college he was made a Fellow. He had been President of the Cambridge Union, and was one of four members of three generations of Butlers to hold the office, the others including his son, Mr. R. A. Butler, the present Education Minister 41 11 14 CIPof

1943 02 26

Acute staff position. The acute position caused by the call-up of staff, was the subject of a special statement by the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council (Ald. W. J. Taylor) at Saturday's meeting of the Council. Ald. Taylor said that, just before the war the staff operating from the Shire Hall - 30 men and 25 women. Of the men, 60 were serving with the forces, 15 were no longer with the council, and seven had been lent to other services. Only 48, therefore, of the original men were left, and of these 26 were over 42. Seventeen of the remainder were liable to be directed elsewhere by the Manpower Board, but only two were under 35 years of age. "We in Cambridgeshire, therefore, cannot be accused of 'protecting' a lot of young men from the services," the speaker added. Ald. Taylor next dealt with the women, and there was a general laugh after he said, "Two are married, and two are liable to be directed. Dr. Woodman asked "What — to marriage ?" 43 02 26 CIPof

1943 03 06

High Steward. Lord Keynes, one of Cambridge's most distinguished sons, received the highest order that the town can bestow on Saturday, when he was appointed High Steward of the Borough in succession to the late Lord Eltisley. The presentation of the Grant of Office by the Mayor (Sir Montagu Butler) took place at a special meeting of the Town Council, in the presence of numerous spectators, representing the Town and University, who included Lady Keynes. Lord Keynes' father and mother (Dr and Mrs J. N. Keynes. with other members of the family) the Regional Commissioner and Lady Spens, the Mayoress and the Borough Member (Lieutenant Commander R. L. Tufnell) 43 03 12 CIPof, 43 03 06

1945 05 12

Charles Phythian appointed clerk county council – CDN 1945 05 12

1945 07 19

T.V. Burrows appointed Borough Engineer & Surveyor – CDN 1945 07 19a

1945 08 02

Presentation Freedom Borough USAAF – CDN 1945 08 02, a & b Crowds celebrate CDN 1945 08 03

1947 05 10

County council first woman chairman – Ald Mrs Clark 47 05 10 [1.13]

1947 08 30

Guildhall large hall dance floor renewed, only light shoes allowed – 47 08 30

1948 04 10

Boundary Commission report favours County Borough status, suggests Cambridgeshire and Isle, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough in one county 48 04 10 [1.14]

1949 03 19

“As long as we can remember the question of Borough extension has been before the Town Council”

49 03 19 [2.8]

1949 07 02

County Borough Question – history of hopes etc 47 07 02

1950 01 24

University representation in parliament has been abolished by the recent Representation of the People’s Act. Amongst those deprived of their seats are the two Cambridge University members, Dr Kenneth Pickthorn (conservative) and H. Wilson Harris (independent). Mr Harris has not sought another constituency but is waiting to see whether Mr Churchill will be in a position to restore the University seats c50 01 24

1950 03 18

Rates soar, suggest joint city / county committee 50 03 18 [1.22]

1950 04 28

Seek County Borough Status, trial bill with Luton & Ilford rejected; minimum population required is 100,000 whereas Cambridge has only 75,000 50 04 28 [2.11]

1951

Modified representation means two Aldermen & six Councillors represent University

1951 03 10

Last-minute disclosure of what councillors described as the “astonishing”, “fantastic” and “mad” extent of proposed salary increases to chief officers of Cambridgeshire County Council was made at a meeting. They involved increases of some 50%. The council rejected proposals of which would have increased the salaries of the Education Officer & County Treasurer from £1,460 to £2,200 & that of the County Surveyor from £1,260 to £2,200. The new scales had been adopted by 22 other councils 51 03 10

1951 03 13

Salaries increased: Town Clerk up from £1,650 to £1,850, Medical Officer of Health & Surveyor from £1,360 to £1,505, Treasurer £1,600 to £1,750-800, Education Officer £1,360-£1,750-800 51 03 13 [2.12]

1951 03 17

To petition King for City status 51 03 17 [2.13]. City status granted 51 03 24 [2.14]

1951 04 14

Freedom of Borough to W.L. Raynes 51 04 14

1951 05 19

Review of Captain Taylor’s momentous year as Mayor 51 05 19

1952 01 05

Death former chief clerk, Town Clerk’s department. Started in J.E.L. Whitehead’s office 1887 and when Whitehead was chosen clerk that year he was employed entirely on council work. In 1901 council decided that office staff to be employed directly by them and joined Corporation – 52 01 05 [2.17]

1952 07 21

The whole of the structure of the 112-year-old courts of assize at the old Shire Hall, Castle Hill, is unsafe and liable to collapse at any time. Dry rot has been attacking the floors and has now spread up

the walls and plaster and into the roof. The damage is said to be irreparable and it is virtually certain that the County Council will have to write off the building as a total loss. The Court House, built of brick and stone in the Italian style has a portico supported on columns and comprises two courts and a magistrates' room from which three prisoners recently escaped by removing an iron grill over a window. 52 07 21 [2.3] Details of figures 52 08 09

1952 10 24

Old Shire Hall to be demolished, repairs cost £50,000. Prof Holford asked to prepare plan 52 10 24 [2.5]

1955 10 20

A crowd of several thousands massed in Cambridge Market Place as the Royal procession moved slowly towards the Guildhall. The Queen looked radiant as the Mayor (Ald E. Halnan) presented her with an Electryte Cardiograph adapted by a local firm to monitor the heart of her thoroughbred racehorses. She thanked him warmly saying "this ingenious machine will be put to good use". Then she made an appearance on the balcony, waving to the crowd who cheered back. 55 10 20b

1955 12 02

A portrait of Thomas Hobson, the Cambridge carrier who gave the world his 'choice' may find a quiet resting place at the Guildhall, rather than be moved to the Corn Exchange. But the ageing portraits of other former city dignitaries are never again to adorn the decorated walls of the Large Room. They are all in need of renovation and were removed before the Queen's recent visit. Two may be hung in the members' retiring room 55 12 02b

1952 12 10

Cambridge City Council are objecting to the County Council's proposal to demolish the Shire Hall courts at present suffering from dry rot; their consent is needed as the building is scheduled as of special architectural or historic interest. Ald Wilding thought it was hardly necessary to demolish the building just because of some defects in the woodwork & Ald Taylor put forward a plan for preserving its very fine façade, but Coun George Edwards said the best thing would be to demolish it and have a new building erected in its place. c 52 12 10

1953 01 23

Cambridge city council have asked the County not to demolish the old Assize Courts which are at present closed because of dry rot. As it is a building of special architectural interest further consideration should be given to its preservation. Dry rot does not necessarily involve the demolition of the whole structure of an affected building – none of the Colleges have had to demolish their buildings, though many of them have been affected from time to time. But the County says there is no assurance that further infection could be prevented. They intend to re-erect the façade of the building elsewhere c53 01 23

1953 03 04

"Why not let the façade of the Assize Courts on Castle Hill be used as a 'Marble Arch' for the new Spine Relief Road" asked the Mayor of Cambridge during discussions on its removal. The City Council had been very concerned about its preservation but to dismantle and remake it would cost £12,000 and architects said it could not be placed on the new building. It was a secondary monument and not old enough to be preserved, being built in 1840. But the stone figures on the roof were to be saved. c53 03 04. Sir – the Shire Hall assize courts were closed on my order in July last year because the structure had become dangerous. Dry rot had been rampant for at least 50 years and the improvised repairs had done nothing to eliminate it. During the work of demolition fragments of newspapers dated 1922 and 1925 have been found that were left by workmen repairing the dry rot in those days. The council had to decide whether to save the bare walls of the old building and rebuild the roof and the whole of the interior, or to demolish it. The extent of the damage is now clearly revealed and confirms the necessity of demolition – Wilfrid Wingate, County Architect. c53 06 12

1953 04 16

Assize Court demolition starts, old frontage offered to Town Council, rejected 53 04 25 [1.15, 2.6, 2.7] Debate 53 11 02

1954 05 17

County Council plan new Shire Hall with Assize courts & offices 54 05 17. Grandiose plan attacked 54 03 2, Chesterton RDC attack scheme 54 06 30. City ask to defer – Guildhall is big enough 54 03 24, Meet city 54 11 01. [2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12]

1955 01 03

Henry Wilkin, chief clerk of Cambridgeshire County Council, has retired after 55 years' service. At the age of 13 he had entered the office of a solicitor who in 1899 became Clerk to the Council, starting his career with local government and receiving five shillings a week out of which he had to hire a barrow to take books to the council office. He had served under three clerks, Samuel Ginn, Ashley Tabrum and Charles Phythian. He was presented with a small walnut bureau and a Westminster chiming grandmother clock. CDN 3.1.1955

1955 04 28

Courts on library site not practical 55 04 28

1956 02 28

Courts tender deferred, Cambridge Daily News criticised for leading campaign against the proposed building 56 02 28 [2.20]

1956 10 23

Under the Cambridge Award Act of 1856 responsibility for weights and measures in Cambridge passed from the University to the Town authorities. The Vice-Chancellor agreed to loan the University's standard weight and measures provided the corporation kept them in order and returned them on demand, subject to a £400 bond. Now the University has decided to make the arrangement permanent and cancel any payment due. 56 10 23b & c

1957 01 23

Ald Mrs Clara Rackham retired from local government work having served on the city council for 40 years and the county for almost 30. Her greatest interest was education, especially the Open-Air School. She was always forthright in debate but recognised the arguments of others and would be remembered with affection by fellow councillors, the Mayor said 57 01 23

1957 05 11

A Government White Paper proposes wider powers for councils such as Cambridge City who wish to be free from the control of the County Council. It says they should be entrusted with responsibility for services such as health, education, roads, town planning, libraries and licensing waste food boiling plants. But the city will still press for county borough status. 57 05 11

1957 08 03

Cambridge - Heidelberg exchange visit 57 08 03 [3.3]

1957 11 03

Shire Hall – new storey proposed – 57 11 03

1957 11 29

The Mayor of Cambridge reminded two councillors that it had been the custom for 400 years that councillors should wear black gowns. He asked them to conform. But Coun Edwards said he was allergic to wearing a uniform of any kind and could do the job as well without a robe. The Mayor told him it was not optional and no one had refused in the past 57 11 29

1957 12 18

Arthur Emburey, City Treasurer – 57 12 18c

1958 02 03

Shire Hall is to be enlarged by an additional storey, increasing office accommodation by 20 per cent. Several councillors argued this was unnecessary in times of financial stringency when secondary education had to reduce its expenditure. But builders are short of work and will do it at a competitive figure. It was a long-term policy to achieve centralisation of the council's administration. 58 02 03a & b [2.22] Shire Hall new storey tender – 58 07 24b

1958 07 26

Press for County Borough status 58 07 26

1958 08 14

The Corporation Storeyard, Mill Road was severely damaged by fire. The alarm was raised by storekeeper, Mr Frederick Tungatt, who lives at the yard. Employees brought their own fire-fighting equipment into operation but as fast as the hoses played water on it the blaze spread rapidly and soon a large section of a store roof became an inferno of flames. More men rescued equipment including 'No Waiting' highways signs. The way they went about it – just as if the property were their own – earned the admiration of the City Surveyor, T.V. Burrows. 58 08 14 & a

1958 11 28

Ald William Luard Raynes councillor since 1908 – tribute – 58 11 28aa

1959 01 16

County Borough plans – 59 01 16 [3.10]

1959 07 18

If Cambridge became a county borough – Isle's reactions – 59 07 18c

1959 07 29

Heidelberg visitors; official visit, Cambridge mayor went two years ago 57 07 29, 57 09 26 [3.11]

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 03 01

Cambridge should be granted County Borough status and so control its own destiny, the Local Government Commission recommends in its draft proposals. But Cambridgeshire would not then be an effective administrative unit and should be merged with the Soke of Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely to be able to provide a comprehensive range of services. Royston Urban District should join the new county but Newmarket should remain in West Suffolk and St Neots be transferred to Bedfordshire. Now the recommendations will be subject to public consultation. 60 03 01 & a

1960 03 02

Proposals to amalgamate Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, the Isle of Ely and the Soke of Peterborough into a new county have been described as 'local government gone mad' by the MP for Cambridgeshire. David Renton is also known to oppose any suggestion that Huntingdonshire should lose its separate identity and may resign from the Government if the proposal goes through. Major Legge-Bourke for the Isle of Ely says it is impossible for fenland areas to be efficiently government by people who do not understand their special problems. The only MP to welcome the proposal is Hamilton Kerr for Cambridge City who says he is delighted that the claim for county borough status has been recognised. 60 03 02a [3.13] County oppose amalgamation 60 04 11 [2.20]

1960 07 01

Thousands of people gathered at Castle Hill to protest at the Local Government Boundary Commission proposals to merge Cambridgeshire into one administrative unit with Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely. There was no evidence any benefit would result. The wish of the City of Cambridge to govern itself as a county borough was criticised as an act of betrayal of the county of which it was the centre. It was better to be capital of an historic and ancient shire than to be a modern statutory creature. 60 07 01b

1961 08 01

Hopes that Cambridge would become a County Borough able to manage its own affairs have been dashed by the Local Government Commission. The improvement of county government should take priority: it could not be effective without the city and would have to be enlarged by taking in other areas. Cambridgeshire should join with the Isle of Ely to form one unit and the town of Royston should come into the area. The position of Newmarket has not yet been determined. 61 08 01

1962 01 04

A Council debate to decide whether to create a post of City Architect ended in chaos after the Mayor stopped discussion. A qualified architect is vital if development is to be continued with taste. Council estates were dull in lay-out and their roads were not up to modern traffic. Uninspired planning must be stopped now. At a time when the Lion Yard, Museum site and City Road area are in the melting pot they should have the advice of an architect, some councillors felt. 62 01 04a City Architects department established after great debate 62 04 19a [3.14, 7.4]

1962 07 27

Saturday closing for Guildhall, except rent & rates & Food welfare office [10.2]

1962 10 02

Cambridge City Council has made a third attempt in 50 years to gain the status of a County Borough Council. During the early 13th century Cambridge had gained its freedom from the county by a special charter from King John but in 1888 when the County Council was set up it came again under the county authority. Cambridge is a market town, the headquarters of many organisations and has a good record of local government. It is strong financially and would save £2,000 a year an Inquiry was told. This would help fund the new redevelopment scheme and sewage works as well as the appointment of a City Architect 62 10 02 & a [3.15, 6.2]

1962 11 10

David (Ken) Quick succeeds Horace Ingle as Sergeant-at-Mace – 62 11 10 [3.16]

1962 11 19

G.C. Logie appointed City Architect 62 11 19

1963 01 22

New valuation lists increases domestic rateable value by over 3 times, the rateable value colleges reduced; city treasurer asks Inland Revenue to review rating assessment of certain houses where blatant inaccuracies; Minister sees Oxford & Cambridge petition reconsider 50% rateable relief colleges under section 11 of 1961 Rating & Valuation Act [13.4]

1963 02 06

In 1956 college rating assessments were treated like those of offices or shops and increased three or even five times, one playing field assessment increased 11-fold. These figures were far too high and an appeal was lodged. Colleges make little demand on local authority services – not one extra place in a school, not one extra book in the Public Library, no extra policemen or inch of road. But there may be slightly more college drainage and refuse. They attract tourists who cause great expense to colleges whereas the entire financial benefit goes entirely to the city. They are not even charged a modest

entrance fee to the private courts which are the sole reason for their visit – J.C. Bradfield, Bursar of Trinity College 63 02 06 & a

1963 03 07

City Treasurers asks Inland Revenue to review rating assessment certain houses – blatant irregularities – 63 03 07

1963 03 29

Minister sees Oxford & Cambridge petition, reconsidered 50% charitable relief for colleges under 1961 Rating & Valuation Act. 63 03 29 [13.6]

1963 04 25

The honour of being given the freedom of the city is the ultimate recognition of service to the community. But there are no privileges attached. Amongst those elected have been Kitchener of Khartoum, the Cambridgeshire Regiment in 1901 and 1946, the US Eighth Army Air Force and Alderman William Raynes in 1951. Originally people could pay to become freemen meaning they could practice their trade, graze animals on the common and hold a booth at Stourbridge Fair. Since 1931 it has been technically possible to apply but nobody has done so. 63 04 25c

1963 04 29

Mr R.A. Butler, the Deputy Prime Minister, has been appointed High Steward of the City of Cambridge, a distinction only conferred on outstanding men 63 04 29 63 04 30

1963 08 02

The Government decision to reject Cambridge City Council's claim for county borough status was described as a 'profound disappointment'. Although its case has been recognised Cambridge is to again be sacrificed on the altar of rural interests, councillors feel. The Local Government Commission says the administrative counties of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely should be amalgamated to form one local government unit and that Huntingdonshire should join with the Soke of Peterborough 63 08 02

1963 10 01

Under the 1961 Rating and Valuation Act the University now has to pay rates on the full annual value of all its properties and as new buildings are erected, their liability will increase. Even though Colleges receive 50% rate relief on old buildings they will still pay more on new. Without that relief rates would be prohibitive. The long legal wrangle had been a great inconvenience to the local authority but the changes are very complex. Now however they will pay full rates which will be a heavy burden on their income 63 10 01

1963 10 29

Sir Keith Joseph, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has refused to change his mind about the administrative future of Cambridge and will not grant the city county borough status. The Town Clerk, P.M. Vine, who was part of a deputation including MP Sir Hamilton Kerr, which travelled to Whitehall, said "We did not get very far". The Minister thought the decision would be a good thing for the whole area – 63 10 29

1964 02 26

MP Kerr introduces bill on Colleges Rating Relief (Oxford & Cambridge) to remove charitable status [13.4]

1964 03 06

The House of Lords has approved two orders amalgamating Cambridge and the Isle of Ely and Huntingdon and the Soke of Peterborough into two new counties. The orders seem to permanently exclude Cambridge from becoming a County Borough: it was so important a factor in the new county that to remove it later on would destroy the county's viability. Peterborough had been in favour since

it might then become the capital of the new administrative unit and eventually perhaps get its own county borough status. But then they changed their minds. 64 03 06d

1964 10 05

The new Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council was ‘thrust upon us by a dying Parliament in defiance of local history and deep-seated tradition’, claimed Coun. M.S. Pease. But the new chairman, Ald Jeeps, urged councillors to try to make it a success. He has worked all his life as a farmer and fruit grower, is courteous, firm, persuasive and quick to see a compromise solution to problems. He also knows the importance of silence as chairman. This makes him an ideal person for the job, Ald Rickwood, of the Isle of Ely County Council, said. 64 10 05

1964 11 27

Gordon Logie, City Architect– feature – 64 11 27

1965 01 15

Vote to abolish aldermen [6.4]

1965 03 31

Speaking at the final meeting of Cambridgeshire County Council before its amalgamation with the Isle of Ely Ald P.J. Watts said there had never been and would never be a more effective unit of local government. They had been a progressive authority with a world-wide reputation in the field of education which was efficient and served by a hard-working staff of great loyalty. Now they were being abolished by people who know a great deal about local government but do not understand it, in the interests of effective convenient local government 65 03 31a

1965 07 08

Heidelberg link: agreement of friendship exchanged, friendship growing since 1957 [10.4]

1966 02 24

John Elven appointed Town Clerk – 66 02 24b

1966 03 02

Crumbling Cambridge: delays in council processes and elderly councillors – 66 03 02a

1966 03 09

Government abolishes rating relief enjoyed by colleges [13.5]

1966 04 02

New MP Robert Davies to stay Alderman but give up chair of Planning Committee [6.6]

1966 04 18

Guildhall needs more space, either extension or rent space in Barrett Building, Rose Crescent – 66 04 18f

1966 07 02

Chesterton RDC new offices at Gt Eastern House, Station Road, to open – 66 07 02

1966 07 30

Former clerk to Cambs & Isle of Ely County Council, Charles Phythian, allowed to retain double salary payments when acting as clerk to County Council and chief officer of new combined authority – 66 07 30, 30a

1967 05 06

Shire Hall redevelopment envisages 15-storey block of offices and law court, car parking under pedestrian precinct – 67 05 06

1967 06 21

City Education office moves Barrett building [10.3]

1967 07 26

County Council buy Howes Close mansion and 23 acres as extension Shire Hall site, to move Country Centre students – 67 07 26

1967 10 13

Consultants investigate City Architect's Department, is costly 67 10 13

1967 11 01

City Surveyor's report on traffic one of most comprehensive ... also instructive in another context - a notable lack of reference to the City Architects department & almost total absence of any obvious exchange of views [26.48.19.17]

1968 01 08

Ken Quick, Sergeant-at-mace, Guildhall – profile – 68 01 08a

1968 02 17

City architect Gordon Logie retires due to ill-health – 68 02 17; profile of career and controversial planning issues; department incorporated with Planning 68 02 26 [7.8]

1968 05 07

Ian Purdy appointed City Architect & Planning Officer 68 05 07

1968 06 05

City council may need private Parliamentary Act to abolish eight university and college seats – 68 06 05b

1969 02 12

Labour plan to abolish University seats, fails [6.8]

1969 06 11

Maud report on local government says Cambridge to become geographical centre of huge new authority as part of three-tier system – 69 06 11

1969 12 23

Ratepayers force council to hold a public vote on their Private Bill aimed at giving council wider financial powers and improve building lines; proposals for Cambridge Corporation Bill rejected when ratepayers force poll (though only 6% vote) – 69 12 23 [8.1]

1970 01 28

Maud Report - Local Government Commission; proposes three levels - province (Norfolk, Suffolk to Lincolnshire); three unitary authorities & local councils; Cambridge would lose most of powers; would start 1973 but Labour Government defeated at election bringing perhaps new attitude to reshaping local government [4.5]

1970 10 19

University students apply for city electoral lists - affects Market Ward & Newnham [15.1]

1971 03

Local Government reorganisation: city oppose as had fought Maud 71 03 12; city 'regarded with suspicion & almost hatred' by county councillors 71 06 25. County support 71 03 27; reverse decision 71 05 08; stop opposing 71 12 18; approve Home Office proposals 72 02 22

1971 01 27

Shire Hall plan Castle Court extension with landscaped offices – 71 01 27b

1971 02 06

County Hall Hobson Street may be sold by county council to raise money for new offices behind Shire Hall – 71 02 06

1971 04 13

Guildhall News" issued as advert in CEN [6.9]

1971 07 20

Government told to scrap University seats but keep Aldermen [6.10]

1971 12 04

John Elven, Tow Clerk, reflects over five years in Guildhall – 71 12 04

1971 12 15

City reject suggestion Twinning with Ramat, Israel 71 12 15

1972 03 30

Civic Restaurant closed after 30 years, 1942-47 at Pitt Club, Jesus Lane, as British Restaurant 72 03 07

1972 07 24

Lion Yard car park open, first stage Lion Yard Redevelopment 72 07 24

1972 10 13

By ceasing to have University councillors on Cambridge city council when local government is reorganised, Cambridge would be losing the benefit of wise men's counsel, the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Jean Barker said last night. "I personally regret the passing of the university councillors elected by the university, although I know it is considered undemocratic, but we had some outstanding brains working for us". In her year as Mayor, Mrs Barker attended 290 social and other functions, 76 in company with her husband, Mr Alan Barker, headmaster of The Leys School c72 10 13

1973 02 05

Geoffrey Cresswell appointed surveyor [7.9]

1973 02 06

Local Government Re-organisation proposals join Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough into one New Cambridgeshire County Council; abolish aldermen & University representatives on City Council, [6.14]

1973 05 26

The £11,000 a year top management job on the new Cambridgeshire County Council has been given to 38-year-old Mr John Barratt, the deputy town clerk of Bradford. He will take control of the hundreds of staff who will ultimately be appointed to the new council or transferred from the present Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council. One of his first jobs will be to advise on the appointment of a team of chief officers who will form a boardroom style management group when the new council takes over responsibility from the old on April 1st next year c73 05 26

1973 06 10

New District Council elected, work in tandem with City Council for a year. Labour have taken control of the new Cambridge District Council with a landslide win over the Conservatives. When the final results were declared they had a clear majority of 10 on the new district council which supersedes the city council on April 1 next year. This is the first time in Cambridge local government history that Labour have won overall control. The Mayor of Cambridge, Ald. Stanley Bowles, a former Conservative leader on the city council was defeated. He will continue as mayor until the city council ceases c73 06 10

1973 06 15

John Elven appointed County Clerk, Bedford, Datson appointed Town Clerk & Chief Executive District Council; staff ill through work [6.16]

1973 07 14

Mr Geoffrey Datson, Deputy Clerk of Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely County Council, has been appointed Chief Executive of the new Cambridge District Council. Yesterday Mr Datson said he was "very pleased" about his new job. "The interchange of staff between the county council and the city augers well for the future" he said. It may be some time before Mr Datson knows his exact salary. The committee wants to pay him at the top end of the nationally agreed scale for chief executives. This scale goes up to £8,300 a year c73 07 14 73 10 02

1974 02 25

The Queen has agreed to allow Cambridge to remain a city after local government reorganisation takes effect on April 1st. Her decision means that the ancient office of Mayor of Cambridge will continue. The new mayor will be Councillor Jack Warren who has been chairman of the Labour-controlled district council since their formation last June c74 02 25 [4.5]

1974 03 07

Cambridge councillors voted to end a 400 year civic tradition when the District Council, who take over at the end of the month, voted to make the wearing of gowns optional on ceremonial occasions only. The custom dates back to 1558. Councillors wore simple black gowns and aldermen scarlet gowns on four special "scarlet days" and black gowns at other times. Councillor John Powley said he had some regrets against seeing the end of such a long established tradition. "I shall not be disposing of my gown. It may be going into mothballs, but it may well be coming out again in two or three years time c74 03 07 [6.17] [7.11] [The Local Government Act 1972 provides no means of enforcing the ancient rule so the council had little choice in the matter (Rosensteil Aug 2013)]

1974 03 29

City Council meet for last time; approve £1,248,000 on new Library, Lion Yard

1974 04 01

Local Government Reorganisation brings Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough into one New Cambridgeshire County Council; abolish aldermen & University representatives on City Council, [6.14] transfers responsibility for libraries from City to County

1974 11 07

Publish Cambridge Blue Print - statement of objectives & policies [6.18]

1976 12 12

The Government has chopped almost £10 million off its cash aid to Cambridgeshire County Council. Senior councillors have been shocked at the figure, which is almost £4 million more than originally anticipated and the most savage cut in the country. Councillors said that last year the Government took account of the county's growing population, but this year it has gone back to the old method and

is working on population figures that are two years out of date. They have decided to shift money in favour of London and major urban areas c76 12 12

1977 07 23

Heidelberg Garden opened [10.5]

1979 12 04

Controversy over proposals to alter house in Orchard Street, Mayor calls for resignations & locks documents in his office; claim misrepresentations 79 12 04 [7.1]

1983 07 01

County Hall sold to college in one biggest deals in city location many years, £1.25M [446.13.7]

1983 09 29

County establish formal links Kries Viersen; charter signed [12.4]

1985 04 20

South Cambridgeshire ratepayers can be assured there are no frills or trimmings in the new £2 million council headquarters on Hills Road. The new base is an energy-saving building which will be workmanlike and maintenance-free. There is an air-conditioned council chamber with video facilities that may be rented out for conferences. Bullet-proof glass will increase security. The idea of moving out into a village was rejected as Cambridge was felt to be a central point. But car parking is likely to be a problem with 105 spaces for the 200 staff, many of whom will have to park in the streets when councillors are meeting 85 04 20

1985 05 07

The new-look Cambridgeshire County Council may descend into political chaos unless a compromise over who works with whom can be worked out. The Liberal SDP Alliance with 26 seats is seeking a three-way administration with the Conservatives (29 seats) or the Labour with 21. But Labour has turned down the Alliance Plan and the Conservatives will agree to power sharing only if the new council accepts their financial policies. Controversial plans to widen East Road have been scrapped as has a railway-road plan which would have destroyed large housing and commercial areas of Cambridge. 85 05 07

1985 09 21

'City Herald' published 85 09 21

1985 11 4

Cambridge City Council Act passed without difficulty: gives up-to-date control over commons, grazing rights, fairgrounds, recreation grounds & river 85 11 14 [7.12]

1986 04 03

Gordon Lister, a Scotsman, has been appointed as chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council at a starting salary of £45,000 a year. He will take over from John Barratt who has held the post since the authority was formed during the nation-wide local government reorganisation in the 1970s. The job is difficult as no overall political party has overall control so every decision is fiercely contested and instantly becomes highly controversial 86 04 03

1986 04 28

Heidelberg link – 86 04 28a & b 1986 10 24

1986 10 24

Cambridge sign friendship Szegred, Hungary [12.5]

1987 04 08

Ken Quick is retiring as Sergeant-at-Mace after 25 years during which time he has advised new Mayors of Cambridge and acted as their chauffeur. He was also Town Crier, donning top hat and red coat twice a year at the Midsummer and Reach fairs. When the Queen visited in 1984 he had to push the then mayor, Coun Betty Suckling, in a wheelchair as she had broken a leg. Until 1974 he worked on Christmas Day when civic visits were paid to the sick in hospital. His dedication was recognised with the award of the British Empire Medal. Now he hopes to write up his diary – but promises that no skeletons will be brought out of the cupboard 87 04 08 87 04 11

1989 06 20

City council staffing crisis - poor pay & severe work pressure ¢CEN 20.6.89

1989 08 16

Cambridge lost coroner after 1972 Local Government Act, then appointed by County Council though Durrell styled 'Honorary City Coroner', on his retirement R. Sterndale Burrows continued but with his death title now lapses ¢CEN 16.8.89

1989 09 13

City decide no more twinning ¢CEN 13.9.89

1989 10 02

City to spend £1M on subsidising housing for council workers ¢CEN 2.10.89

1990 07 17

Cambridge City Treasurer suspended in expenses probe – 90 07 17

1990 09 27

City planning chief John Popper resigns; third official to leave within three months – 90 09 27a,b; resignation creates row - 90 10 09a

1990 10 04

Geoffrey Datson retires as Chief Executive, city council – memories – 90 10 04a